

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CONSULAR PACKAGE - FY-1979 PART II OF TWO PARTS

REF: STATE 87841

REMARKS:

SUMMARY:

EMBASSY LONDON CONSULAR SECTION IS BADLY PRESSED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND REASONABLE SERVICES TO THE RISING DEMANDS OF THE PUBLIC. THE EXPECTATION OF EFFICIENT, QUALITATIVE AND FAST SERVICE BY THE PUBLIC IS INCREASINGLY BECOMING AN ARTICLE OF FAITH. WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF AVAILABLE STAFF, EQUIPMENT, SPACE, CONSTANT REVIEW OF PROCEDURES, THE EMBASSY IS BARELY ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THE ONGOING SITUATION. THE NEED TO UPDATE OUR OPERATIONS BY INSTALLATION OF MODERN OFFICE EQUIPMENT, SECURE SUFFICIENT SPACE FOR AN EXPANDING OPERATION AND TO KEEP ALL AUTHORIZED LOCAL AND AMERICAN POSITIONS FILLED IS A MATTER OF URGENCY. IMMEDIATE AND DRASTIC ACTION IS REQUIRED TO KEEP PACE WITH PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED DEMANDS FOR CONSULAR SERVICES.

VISAS GENERAL:

PROJECTED ESTIMATES FOR INCREASE IN WORKLOAD ARE CONSERVATIVE AND THE NUMBER OF NEW POSITIONS REQUESTED
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UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES ARE ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN A REASONABLE LEVEL OF OPERATING EFFICIENCY AND AVOIDANCE OF BACKLOGS. TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICES TO MEET INCREASED DEMAND AND PROPERLY CARRY OUT STATUTORY FUNCTIONS, OUR VISA OPERATIONS MUST BE MODERNIZED.

NONIMMIGRANT VISAS:

WORKLOAD DURING FY-1976 WAS HIGHER THAN PROJECTED. WHILE FY-1977 AT THE HALF WAY POINT IS MORE THAN PROJECTED WE EXPECT THE RATE TO DROP DURING THE SECOND HALF OF FY-1977. THE EFFECT OF THE BICENTENIAL APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DELAYED WHICH MAY ACCOUNT FOR FY-1977 INCREASE. ALTHOUGH THE ECONOMIC SITUATION APPEARS TO BE IMPROVING, THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IS STILL ALMOST ONE AND A HALF MILLION, INFLATION IS IN THE 17 PER CENT RANGE, AND INCREASED LABOR UNREST IS LIKELY TO REMAIN PART OF THE SCENE FOR SOME TIME. THE RESULT ON OUR OPERATION IS DIFFICULT TO FORECAST. IT MAY CREATE INCENTIVE FOR MORE PERSONS TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES VIA NIV ROUTE OR MAY ENCOURAGE THEM TO REMAIN AND NOT SPEND MONEY ON TRANSPORTATION. HOWEVER, THE RELATIVELY CHEAP AIR FARES MAY MAKE IT WORTH THEIR WHILE TO TRY. THE MODEST 5 PER CENT ESTIMATE INCREASE FOR NIV DURING THE NEXT TWO FYs REFLECTS THIS UNCERTAINTY. IN EITHER INSTANCE THE PROBLEM OF SORTING OUT THE MALA FIDE CASES WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SERIOUS CONCERN. INCREASING TIME CONSUMING NUMBERS OF APPEAL CASES ARE BEING HEARD. SEE NARRATIVE UNDER SCHEDULE V.

IMMIGRANT VISAS:

THE RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE INS WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE EFFECT ON OUR OPERATIONS. THE AVAILABILITY OF NUMBERS IN ALL CATEGORIES FOR MOST OF THE WH WILL LIKELY RESULT IN UNTOLD NUMBERS OF ILEGAL AND LEGAL NONIMMIGRANTS RESIDING IN THE US, FORMER RESIDENTS OF THE UK, RETURNING FOR THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROCESSING OF THEIR IV CASES. MANY WH NATIVES, PARTICULARLY JAMAICANS, ARE ELECTING TO RETURN TO UK WHERE THEY PREVIOUSLY RESIDED, RATHER THAN GO TO JAMAICA. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THOSE ARE TIME CONSUMING IN THAT THEY INVOLVE EMPLOYMENT AND FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS. THESE CASES ARE ALREADY HAVING IMPACT ON OUR OPERATIONS IN THAT WE CAN ONLY DO 2 - 3 INDEPTH INTERVIEWS AND SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATIONS A DAY AND STILL MAINTAIN A NORMAL INTERVIEW WORKLOAD. THE NUMBER OF WH APPLICATIONS WERE HIGH IN THE PAST AND NOW THAT WH PERMANENT RESIDENTS AND CITIZENS CAN FILE PETITIONS FOR THEIR WH RELATIVES WE CAN EXPECT FURTHER SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN WH APPLICATIONS. RELIABLE SOURCE HAS REPORTED THAT NOT INCLUDING OTHER WH NATIONALS, THERE ARE 400,000 JAMAICAN NATIONALS RESIDING IN THE UK. BECAUSE OF INS BACKLOG. IN SOME OFFICES AS LONG AS TWO YEARS DELAY IN ADJUSTMENT CASES,

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PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR ADJUSTMENT COME TO LONDON FOR "QUICK" SERVICE. BUSINESSMEN APPLYING FOR ADJUSTMENT IN THE US UNABLE TO WAIT FOR ADJUSTMENT TO HAPPEN, OTHERS NEEDING TO COME ABROAD FOR EMERGENCY REASONS, ELDERLY PARENTS WHO WISH TO JOIN THEIR US CITIZEN CHILDREN, FAMILIES WHO NORMALLY REMAIN IN THE US WITH RELATIVES WHILE AWAITING ADJUSTMENT BUT CANNOT AFFORD TO DO SO WITHOUT SEEKING EMPLOYMENT UNTIL THEY HAVE THEIR I-151 ARE CREATING A SERIOUS IMPACT ON OUR OPERATIONS. ALIENS FROM US APPEAR WITH THEIR USC RELATIVES EXPECTING VISAS IMMEDIATELY AND WHEN LEARN OF TIME INVOLVED FREQUENTLY CREATE ANQRY SITUATIONS RESULTING IN DETRIMENT TO OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS, OFFICE MORALE AND EFFICIENCY.

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION (SEE ABOVE) IS CREATING AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR INFORMATION ON IMMIGRATION. THE PROSPECT OF BETTER PAY, ETC., THE WORSENING JOB SITUATION IN UK IS REFLECTED IN APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN PERCENT INCREASE IN IMMIGRANT CORRESPONDENCE AND TELEPHONE INQUIRIES. MARRIAGES WITH MEMBERS OF US FORCES ACCOUNTS FOR A GROWING NUMBER OF US RESIDENTS AND CITIZENS, FORMERLY BRITISH, FILING PETITIONS ON BEHALF OF SIBLINGS AND PARENTS.

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FUTURE IMPACT ON IMMIGRANT DEMAND WILL BE CREATED BY RAPIDLY CHANGING RACIAL SITUATION. THE COMMONWEALTH POPULATION FACED WITH STRONG VOCAL MINORITY PUBLIC OPINION THAT THEY SHOULD BE REPATRIATED IS CAUSING CONCERN AMONG ASIANS AND OTHERS WHO ARE LOOKING INCREASINGLY TOWARD US AS NEW HOMELAND. A RECENT PUBLICATION BY HMG "BRITISH NATIONALITY LAW" "DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE CHANGES" DATED APRIL 1977 HAS ADDED FURTHER FUEL TO THEIR UNEASINESS BECAUSE IT RAISES SEVERAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THEIR RIGHT TO ENTER AND REMAIN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THEIR ENTITLEMENT TO UK CITIZENSHIP. SYMPTOMATIC OF LABOR GOVERNMENT'S NATIONALIZATION SCHEMES, ITS ALMOST CONFISCATORY APPROACH TO TAXATION, SUPPORTED ENCROACHMENT UPON MANAGEMENTS PREROGATIVES BY THE UNIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE ENGAGED IN MARGINAL ENTERPRISES, MORE AND MORE ENTREPRENEURS ARE LOOKING TOWARD INVESTING IN THE US. WE ARE COPING WITH AN INCREASING NUMBER OF INQUIRIES FROM WOULD BE INVESTORS UNDER 22 CFR 42.91(A) (14) (11) (D) AND SINCE THIS REPRESENTS A MAJOR UNDERTAKING FOR THOSE APPLICANTS THEY NORMALLY REQUIRE A LENGTHY INTERVIEW WITH A CONSULAR OFFICER TO DISCUSS THE COMPLICATIONS OF ADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT ELIGIBILITY FOR INVESTOR STATUS.

AMERICAN SERVICES GENERAL:

TO IMPROVE OVERALL MANAGEMENT THE PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP AND SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES /UNITS HAVE BEEN COMBINED INTO THE AMERICAN SERVICES BRANCH. INSTEAD OF TWO SUPERVISORY OFFICERS ONE CHIEF OF THE BRANCH WAS DESIGNATED TO PROVIDE SUPERVISION. THIS HAS RESULTED IN IMPROVEMENT AND FLEXIBILITY IN THE UTILIZATION OF PERSONNEL, INCREASED CROSS TRAINING AND GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN SERVICE FOR THE PUBLIC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS NARRATIVE THE SERVICES WITHIN THE BRANCH ARE COMMENTED ON SEPARATELY.

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SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES:

THE NOTORIAL FIGURE UNDER ITEM 36 FOR FY-1976 REFLECT SERVICES U:P TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. THERE WERE OVER 8,000 ELECTION INQUIRIES. THE ESTIMATES FOR FY-1977 REFLECT ANTICIPATED INCREASE OF SERVICES DUE TO THE INFLUX OF VISITORS TO THE UK AS A RESULT OF THE JUBILEE AND OPERATIONS FRIENDSHIP CELEBRATIONS. WITH THE FAVORABLE EXCHANGE RATE AND THE FORTHCOMING EVENTS THE BRITISH TOURIST AUTHORITY PREDICT TWO MILLION VISITORS FROM THE UNITED STATES DURING 1977. THERE WAS A 21 PER CENT INCREASE IN VISITORS TO THE UK DURING 1976 FROM THE US OVER 175.

A PROGRAM OF VISITING USC PRISONERS WAS INITIATED ON JANUARY 1, 1977 AND TO DATE EVERY USC PRISONER IN LONDON CONSULAR DISTRICT HAS BEEN SEEN AT LEAST ONCE. A TOTAL OF 48 PRISONERS WERE VISITED. TO INITIATE THE PROGRAM IT WAS NECESSARY TO INVOLVE 8 OFFICERS FROM THROUGHOUT CONSULAR SECTION. IN APRIL 1977 THE DEPT AUTHORIZED AN OFFICER POSITION TO ALLOW CONTINUAL PRISON VISITATION PROGRAM. THIS POSITION HAS NOT YET BEEN FILLED. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOW VISITING PRISONERS ON A REGULAR BASIS WE HAVE STILL BEEN UNABLE TO BE COMPLETELY RESPONSIVE TO USC AT POINT OF ARREST OR DETENTION BY

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VISITING THEM IMMEDIATELY. HOWEVER, WE HAVE MADE A QUANTUM LEAP IN THIS DIRECTION BY BUILDING RELATIONS WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS SO THAT WE ARE INFORMED PROMPTLY OF ANY AMERICAN IN TROUBLE.

CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORT SERVICES:
DURING THE LATTER PART OF FY-1976 AND EARLY FY-1977 WE WERE CONFRONTED WITH SIX RESIGNATIONS DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE TOURIST SEASON. WITH THE HIRING OF SIX NEW EMPLOYEES THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED TO INITIATE A TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDED CROSS TRAINING FOR LOCAL AND AMERICANS. LECTURES AND WORKSHOP SESSIONS OCCUPIED PART OF THE FALL MONTHS AND SOME TIME IS STILL BEING SPENT IN CHECKING THE WORK OF NEW EMPLOYEES TO MINIMIZE ERRORS AND MAINTAIN HIGH QUALITY WORK STANDARDS. THE SECOND HALF OF

FY-1977 FINDS US WITH A FULL STAFF AND BETTER ABLE TO COPE WITH INCREASING DEMANDS. WE CONTINUE TO BE PLAGUED BY POOR ALLOCATION OF SPACE AND EQUIPMENT. WHILE THE LATTER HAS IMPROVED WITH NEW FURNITURE AND INSTALLATION OF ANSWERING DEVICE FOR PASSPORT INQUIRIES, WE URGENTLY REQUIRE SOPHISCATED EQUIPMENT TO ELIMINATE LABOR INTENSIVE TASKS SUCH AS FILE SEARCH, BETTER FACILITIES AND MORE SPACE FOR THE PUBLIC.

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PREDICTIONS THAT THERE WILL BE A LARGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS COMING TO THE UK (SEE SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES NARRATIVE) WILL MEAN SUBSTANTIALLY MORE WORK FOR THE ALREADY OVERBURDENED STAFF. WE WILL PROBABLY ISSUE 18,000 PASSPORTS DURING FY-1977. THE NEW SMALLER TYPE PASSPORT INTRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO HIGHER ISSUANCE FIGURE IN 1978 SINCE THE SERVICE FOR ADDITIONAL PAGES HAS BEEN ELIMINATED. WITHIN THE NEXT TWO FISCAL YEARS IT IS LIKELY THAT MANY AMERICANS IN UK WORKING WITH NORTH SEA OIL WILL BE REPLACED BY TRAINED LOCALS AND MAY RESULT IN SOME DIMINISHING PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP SERVICES NOW PERFORMED FOR NORTH SEA OIL COMPANIES.

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